

# Proposed Educational Experience Form

**First & Last Name:** Ima Jayhawk

**Student ID Number:** 186500

**KU Email Address:** imajayhawk@ku.edu

**Name of Academic Advisor:** Jody Johnson

**Which KU Core Goal/Learning Outcome are proposing that the above course/experience meet?**

- ☐ Goal 4, Learning Outcome 1 – U.S. Diversity
- ☒ Goal 4, Learning Outcome 2 – Global Diversity
- ☐ Goal 5, Learning Outcome 1
- ☐ Goal 5, Learning Outcome 2
- ☐ Goal 6 – Integration and Creativity

**Prior to completing the proposal, we recommend you talk to the person (instructor or supervisor) who will be overseeing your experience to ensure the activities you complete during the experience align with the KU Core Goal you are petitioning for.**

**Action: Describe the experience. Please ensure these details are include:**

- **What are the parameters of the experience (e.g. duration, hours, start/end dates)?**
- **Where does the experience take place (e.g., research/innovation institute, community or workplace organization; local vs. Abroad)?**

*I have been offered a 12-week position as a research intern with the Wildfish Institute of Ocean Research (WIOR) beginning in September 2024. The internship takes place at WIOR which is based in Managua, Nicaragua. WIOR anticipates I will an average of 40 per week; however, depending on the progress of the research team, I may work additional hours. The internship will begin on September 12<sup>th</sup> and conclude on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. I will be living in Nicaragua during this experience.*

**Action: Describe how your roles, responsibilities, and/or the activities in which you'll participate during the experience that are relevant to the proposed goal.**

*Through WIOR, I am working with a microbial oceanographer and an environmental chemist on a project investigating the risk of chemical transfer from plastic waste on the food chain at sea. My responsibilities related to this research project include: designing the research question, collecting specimens, recording and analyzing data, and finding additional research that will assist the principal investigators.*

*While conducting research, I will be working in a lab with interns and scientists from several countries including Nicaragua, Bermuda, Australia, South Africa, and Spain. Additionally, I will be living with a host family in a small seaside village on the Caribbean. My host family primarily speaks an indigenous language with some English comprehension. I am currently learning words and phrases from their language and learning about their culture to prepare for the experience. I intend to immerse myself in the local culture by attending church with them, participating in their customs, listening to their music, and sampling their cuisine. Additionally, I plan to learn about the culture and experiences of my lab partners.*

**Intention/Planning:** Explain how this experience meets the [criteria](#) for the core goal in which you are seeking approval for? Use specific examples that connects your experience to each learning outcome and criterion listed for the goal in which you are petitioning.

*Nicaragua is a multi-ethnic country comprised of indigenous people and those descending from Europe, Asia, and Africa. This combination of cultures means the country has a variety of cultures, cuisines, music, and literature. Forty-eight percent of the population lives below poverty line and survives on less than \$2 a day. Additionally, Nicaragua has experienced political unrest in its recent history most notably with the Nicaraguan Revolution and the Contra Wars.*

*In preparing for my trip, I have been studying the history of Nicaragua and the cultures of the Nicaraguan people, as well as learning a few key words of the indigenous language spoken where I will be staying. I'm hoping this will somewhat prepare me for the experience and show the local community that I am interested to learning from them. As a person who has lived in the KC metro area my entire life, I understand the people whom I will be living with have the completely opposite experience of me. My hope is that I learn from them by participating in their daily activities, rituals, and cultural events so that I can better understand the difference that exist between the US and developing countries and the people that reside in them.*

*Within my research, I will be working with a cross cultural team. In doing so, I will have to learn the cultural norms for each person as they relate to collaboration and work. I am anticipating that this will require additional conversations and adaptability that I wouldn't experience working with a team from the US. Our team has already started meeting in preparation for the trip and we have discussed the value of learning from each other and about the cultural norms each of us bring to the group.*

*I intend to keep a journal that highlights my daily activities and notes instances where my values or ideas were challenged. I intend to reflect on these challenges and then apply the lessons learned to my future goals and ambitions. I will routinely discuss my experiences with my host family with other members of my research team so that I can compare my experience to the experience of others who come from different countries.*

**Reflection:** Describe how this experience helps you meet your academic and career goals.

*As an environmental studies major, I am interested in marine plastic contamination. My ultimate career goal is to work for an NGO that works with the government and manufacturers to develop policies to protect water sources from contamination. Marine plastic contamination is an issue that affects all people and countries. To decrease contamination, the global community must be involved. This experience will offer me a chance to research the topic I am interested in pursuing, so I have a greater scientific understanding that will be useful in my efforts to advocate for clean water. It will also allow me to work and communicate with a diverse group of people. This will help me to understand the various needs and desires from people who are different than myself and how their needs and desires should be considered in my advocacy work. These skills will help me pursue my career in a more meaningful way.*

**Assessment:**

**How will you assess whether you met your goals and the criteria for the core goal in which you are seeking approval for? Who will be evaluating your performance (e.g. supervisor, faculty/staff, clients/self)?**

*My performance within the research team will be evaluated by my supervisor. My supervisor will evaluate my ability to work within a team, communicate effectively, and behaviors and attitudes toward different cultures. We will meet to discuss my performance evaluation. Outside of work, I will be evaluating my interactions with people and their cultures, comparing these experiences to my own experience, and continually setting goals that encourage me to better understand and participate in the cultures of those around me. I will write in my journal regularly documenting my experience and my reactions to these experiences. I will record what I've learned and create next steps so I can continue to learn and grow.*

**Submit syllabus or additional information about the experience here.**

**Submit a letter of support from your advisor, faculty, or experience supervisor that supports your participation and notes how the experience meets the goal.**

SAMPLE